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ROPEX - 78

APRIL 14-16 1978



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IN

MEMORIUM



Leslie J. Roll



William D. Erwin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday - April 14, 1978

10:00 a.m. Opening of Exhibition and Bourse Large Hall

10:00 p.m. Exhibition and Bourse Closes

Saturday - April 15, 1978

10:00 a.m. Exhibition and Bourse Opens

10:00 a.m. Meeting of Judges

1:00 p.m. Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs Meeting - Board Room

2:30 p.m. Junior Philatelists of America Regional Meeting - Board Room

4:30 p.m. "Creation of a Philatelic Collage" - Demonstration by Mr. C. Samuel Cornish Board Room

7:30 p.m. ROPEX-78 Awards Banquet Dining Room

10:00 p.m. Exhibition and Bourse Closes

Sunday - April 16, 1978

10:00 a.m. Exhibition and Bourse Opens

10:00 a.m. Judges' Seminar and Critique Board Room/Large Hall

2:00 p.m. Scouts on Stamps Society International (Chapter 15) Meeting - Board Room

5:00 p.m. ROPEX-78 Closes

R.P.A. HISTORY

The Rochester Philatelic Association is now in its 63rd year and is still going strong. It was organized on March 12, 1913. The first meeting was held at the Hotel Rochester with eleven enthusiastic men getting it off to a fine start. In a short time, they began to hold their meetings at the Municipal Museum in Rochester, but during the first World War, interest lagged and the club was only kept together through the efforts of five members who met at various homes.

Eventually, more members were added and they met in the back room of a local stamp dealer. They soon graduated to the Public Library, and after many months the club moved to the Edgerton Park Museum. When the Bausch Museum of Arts and Sciences was built, the RPA followed them to East Avenue, moving in 1976 to the Parish Hall of St. Paul's Church four blocks away.

Down through the years much has been accomplished in the effort to bring stamp collecting and its joys to the general public. A wide variety of programs have been featured at the over 1200 meetings. These activities include outside and local speakers, movies, mini-exhibits, swap nights - in fact nearly everything that was ever heard of in the hobby! Throughout this time there was always an annual banquet, followed by an exhibit, entertainment, and recently an auction.

Early exhibitions of the RPA were local affairs, but during the thirties and forties shows were held in conjunction with the Rochester Museum Hobby Council. In 1950, the RPA assisted in the formation of the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs. As host to this group and subsequent combination with the Central New York Federation of Stamp Clubs, the scope of the exhibitions became international.

The year 1963 was the Golden Jubilee of the Rochester Philatelic Association, and called for a really big show in celebration. This show of over 700 frames, held in Rochester's new Midtown Plaza, was a huge success. This paved the way for subsequent large exhibitions and bourses such as TOPEX'67 and APS'68. Incidentally, it was at APS'68 that the World Series of Philately was inaugurated. The current ROPEX title was initiated in 1971 and used to designate the shows that hosted such organizations as the American Philatelic Congress, the Society of Philatelic Americans, and the American Topical Association. This background of the RPA provides as appropriate credential for hosting ROPEX-78 in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the New York Central Railroad.

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

FOUNDED 1913

Post Office Box 3806 Brighton Station Rochester, New York 14610

April 14, 1978

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Rochester Philatelic Association, the ROPEX-78 Committee, and the City of Rochester, I wish to welcome you to ROPEX-78. We hope you will enjoy seeing the show and the special sights of Rochester.

The R. P. A. is particularly pleased that the Junior Philatelists of America, the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs, and the Scouts on Stamps Society International (Chapter 15) have chosen to hold meetings in conjunction with ROPEX-78. The Association, as your host, will do everything possible to make your visit a most rewarding and enjoyable one.

The New York Central Railroad was founded in 1853. This year, we are joining railroad enthusiasts in celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the New York Central Railroad.

I invite you to study the exhibits and spend time with the post office representatives and the fine selection of bourse dealers. I urge you to attend the various society meetings and speakers scheduled during the course of the show.

I thank you for your interest, and hope that your stay will be both entertaining and educational. I look forward to meeting and greeting you personally. If I or any other member of the R. P. A. may be of help, please ask us.

Very truly yours,

Richard S. Hall

President, R. P. A.

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COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

| TRAME NO. | TITLE | EXHIBITOR |
|-----------|--|-----------------|
| | UNITED STATES | |
| 1- 6 | Overprints on U. S. Postage Stamps | K. Koller |
| 7 | Fancy Cancels on the United States "Banknotes" 1870-1888 | W. Kramer |
| 8- 16 | U. S. Plate Blocks, Matched Sets of Setenant Issues through 1973 | R. S. Hall |
| 17- 28 | United States Private Proprietary Stamps | W. M. Fitch |
| 29- 30 | Domestic Letter Rates of the 1860's | S. L. Gosline |
| | U. S. POSTAL HISTORY | |
| 31- 32 | History of V-Mail | S. Schlesinger |
| 33- 36 | A Postal History of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia 1861-65 | S. T. Jaronski |
| 37- 40 | Railroad Postal Markings used on the New York Central Railroad | K. C. Jones |
| 41- 42 | Let's Take a Trip on the "Housatonic" | H. L. C. Wenk |
| 43 | Postal Transportation Service | R. W. Kline |
| 44- 46 | Postal History of Rochester, New York | W. C. Stevens |
| 47 | Early Postal History of Maine | N. B. Zielinski |
| 48- 50 | Variations on a Theme | K. M. Hall |
| 51 | Post Offices of Wyoming County, New York | C. Brown |

FOREIGN

| 52- 59 | Great Britain Issues of 1840-41 | C. & J. Boyce |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| 60- 62 | Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee 1952-1977 | H. O. Windsor |
| 63- 67 | The Story of One Stamp - Hradcany 25h Blue | O. Kutvirt |
| 68 | Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee | G. B. Joel |
| 69- 75 | Norfolk Island | R. M. Stone |
| 76- 78 | India - The First Decade | N. M. Pattnaik |
| 79– 86 | First Coins, First Festivals, and First Postage Dues of the State of Israel | S. Aleichem |
| | FOREIGN POSTAL HISTORY | |
| 87- 92 | British and French Postal Agencies in Haiti | L. W. Dean |
| 93 | Napoleonic Post Offices | J. C. Standen |
| 94- 96 | Special Commemorative Cancel- lations of Germany | W. A. Frye |
| 97-100 | Portugal - 19th Century Stampless Covers | W. C. Clatterbuck |
| 101-102 | The Cogwheel Cancels of Bavaria | R. B. Tobias |
| 103-104 | Tonga - "Tin Can Mail" | C. J. Reiling |
| 105-107 | Military Aerograms of Portugal and Portuguese Colonies | R. Pernes |
| 108-110 | Misfortune at the Poles | H. Vogel |
| 129-132 | Hungarian Postal Stationery | L. R. Moriarty |

TOPICALS

| 111-114 | Doves and Pigeons on Stamps of the World | A. | W. Pankratz |
|---------|--|----|-----------------|
| 115 | The European Alps | в. | Drury |
| 116-118 | Game, Set, Match | R. | S. Fisk |
| 119-120 | Medicinal Plants | C. | C. Starkweather |
| 121-122 | The North American Indian | A. | C. Wood |
| 123-128 | Painter Poets on Stamps | A. | Steiner |
| | | | |

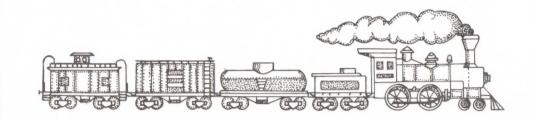
NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

| 135-136 | Unique Covers Honoring the Bicentennial and Railroading | C. | S. | Cornish |
|---------|--|----|----|---------|
| | Note: Mr. Cornish will hold a demonstration of the making of this type of cover at 4:30 pm Scturday, April 15, 1978 in the Board Room. All interested visitors and collectors are urged to attend. | | | |

New York Central Memorabilia, Photographs, Timetables, etc.

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133-134



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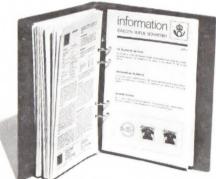
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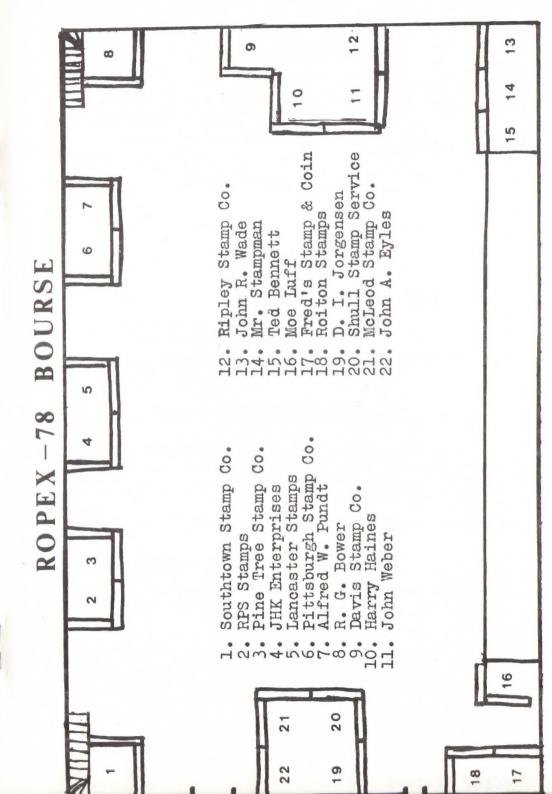


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POSTAL STATIONS

United States Postal Service

Royal Swedish Post Office

United Nations Postal Administration

LOUNGE AREA

In the hallway outside the main entrance the following will have tables for those seeking information:

Rochester Philatelic Association

Junior Philatelists of America

National Railway Historical Society (Rochester Chapter)

Informational brochures and promotional materials for the following may also be found in the Lounge Area (and the Balcony Lounge).

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JACOB LEGEER AWARD

Best General exhibit by an RPA member.

VIRGINIA GUBLER AWARD

Best Topical exhibit by an RPA member.

NOVICE AWARD

Best exhibit by an RPA novice - non-winner.

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARD

Best exhibit by an APS member.

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION AWARD
Best Topical exhibit.

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY AWARD

Best exhibit of New York State Postal History.

JUNIOR PHILATELISTS OF AMERICA AWARD

Best exhibit by a Junior.

SOCIETY OF PHILATELIC AMERICANS RESEARCH AWARD Exhibit demonstrating best original research.

UNITED POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY AWARD (MARCUS WHITE TROPHY)
Best Postal Stationery exhibit.

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Yellow Ribbon for Bronze Awards
White Ribbon for all other exhibitors

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The Two Cent value of the Pan American series was issued May 1, 1901. The central feature of this stamp is a picture of the Empire State Express, operated by the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. The photo used for this engraving was taken by A. P. Yates of Syracuse, New York, while the train was traveling sixty miles per hour. The design was drawn by R. Ostrander Smith and the engraving for both the vignette and frame was done by Messrs. Baldwin and Ellis of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The train shown on this stamp was selected after an urgent appeal by G. H. Daniels, General Passenger Agent of the New York Central Railroad. He explained that the Pan American Exposition was to be held in Buffalo that year, and that since the New York Central was primarily a New York institution, the Empire State Express was a logical subject to be used.

The New York Central Railroad, without stating that it was a two cent stamp to which they were referring, claimed in their advertisements that "Two hundred million steel engravings of the most famous railroad train in the world are on sale in every city, town, village and hamlet in the United States."

Although more than twice as many sheets of this value were printed than of the one cent, considerably fewer inverts have been found. The generally accepted quantity of known copies of this invert was approximately 155. The official check notes 153 unused and only one or two used.

The first batch of the two cent inverts were found by a Mr. Davis, who sold them to dealers along Nassau Street for five dollars each. "I bought a block of four from him for twenty dollars," said Mr. Walter S. Scott, "but when I heard he was peddling them around the street for five dollars each, I demanded my money back and returned the stamps to him. This was the biggest mistake I ever made." (In a recent auction, a block of four brought more than 100,000 dollars.)

A sheet of 100 was purchased by a Mr. Fred Schoenberg, of Brooklyn. He was a Sunday School teacher and showed the stamps to his class. One of the ladies noted that the locomotive was "upside down." He then gave each of the ladies one of the stamps as a souvenir. A few days later he was visited by a man claiming to be a postal inspector who demanded the return of the sheet, offering to replace it with a correct sheet. Mr. Schoenberg, however, refused to return the stamps, claiming he had honestly acquired them. He finally made a deal with the man for 1,000 dollars for the 96 stamps. These stamps were in a different shade than the other find. A few other small lots came to light in the New York area, but the total is still only 155 copies.

There were 35 vignette plates used in printing and 12 frame plates. The total number of stamps printed (both regular and inverted) was 209,759,700.



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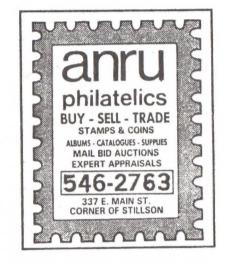
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THE TERSE TREASURY OF TWICE TOLD TIMELY TOPICAL TALES

James P. Flynn Member RPA, KBJT of A, SOCCE, and XYZ, Inc.

Many years ago an RPA junior member started a topical collection of Butterflies on Stamps. An older member working with him told him to get a book from the library and become familiar with the subject. At the following meeting the junior member showed up with a library book as instructed. The book was titled, What Every Young MOTHER Should Know.

* * * * * * * *

Do you know the RPA member who started a topical collection back in his courting days? Trying to make conversation at his girl's house one evening, he asked, "Does anyone here know anything about tennis?" Her father said, "Yes, ten is about late enough to keep my daughter out."

On the backhand, our member said he thought he could have a ball with the new racket in topical collecting, Tennis on Stamps. The collecting would not be as strenuous as the actual playing, and had the advantage of a good net return.

At this point, the stern father said, "Young man, I consider your racket to be outlandish, and I forbid you to see my daughter again." Which just goes to show, even if it's not your fault, the courts of true lob never did run smooth.

* * * * * * * * *

Circus fans often collect Elephants on Stamps as well as enjoying them in parades and acts. Many wonder at how docile the elephants appear. It is not generally known outside the circus business that one of the first things the trainer does when he arrives in town with the elephants is to unpack their trunks. No elephant is going to leave town when his trunk is empty.

* * * * * * * *

Another popular topic is China on Stamps. A collection of China Clippers with plate numbers should be of interest. Many early issues are interesting for their cracked plates, plate flaws, and double impressions.

A related topic is Pottery on Stamps. Indian pottery, as shown on the 1977 United States Pueblo Art Issue, will always be a collectors item, just as is the pottery itself. Not many collectors today know of or have seen the magnificent vases and urns made by the Ute Indians.

When touring became popular in America, those living by the side of the road set up stands to sell their wares. The Ute Indians followed the lead of their white brothers and set up stands to sell their beautiful pottery. Their popularity became so great that the other stands lost most of their business. The non-Indian roadside dealers organized and had laws passed to drive out the Indian pottery makers. Starting in the west, it soon spread to other states to completely halt the Indians. Now these official signs appear on all the roads, "No Ute Urns on this Highway."

* * * * * * * *

Since ROPEX-78 honors the 125th Anniversary of the Founding of the New York Central System, it seems appropriate to relate the following:

Few people knew of the one track railroad that connected Chicago and New Orleans. Each evening a train would leave Chicago for New Orleans, at the same time a train would leave New Orleans for Chicago. The engineer of the train leaving Chicago was a Norwegian. The engineer of the train leaving New Orleans was an inebriate Southern gentleman. We might add that these gentlemen had one track minds and had been trained for their jobs.

The trains would travel through the night on what would appear to be a collision course. However, never in the history of the railroad was there an accident involving these two trains. One can easily understand this if they stop to think, "Norse is North and Souse is South, and never the train shall meet."



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